

# Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors

1

## “Infants Are Subjects Of Bible Baptism!”

### Lesson 12

#### INTRO:

- A. Those making this statement believe that babies/infants need to be baptized.
  - 1. Their belief leads them to the practice of baptizing infants.
- B. Some quotes:
  - 1. **Catholics:**  
The Roman Catholic Church considers baptism, even for an infant, so important that "parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptised within the first few weeks" and, "if the infant is in danger of death, it is to be baptised without any delay." (**Code of Canon Law, canon 867**)
  - 2. **Methodists:**  
“As the circumcision of male children is the initiatory act into God's covenant with the Hebrew people (see Genesis 17:9-14), baptism is our initiation into the new covenant in Jesus Christ....We continue this practice by baptizing the children of those who reaffirm their baptismal vows, receiving them into God's mighty acts of salvation.” (<https://www.umc.org/en/content/renewing-waters-how-united-methodists-understand-baptism>)
- C. “Most Christian denominations accept the doctrine of infant baptism. Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Assyrian Church of the East, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Church of the Nazarene, Reformed Church in America, Episcopalians, United Church of Christ, Presbyterians, Continental Reformed, and others, baptize infants. Together, these constitute over 80 percent of all those who call themselves Christians.” ([https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Infant\\_Baptism](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Infant_Baptism))  
“However, since the Protestant Reformation, numerous denominations practice adult or believer's baptism, including Baptists, Pentecostals, Anabaptists (Mennonites, Amish, Brethren), Seventh-day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christadelphians, (**ibid.**)
- D. A reason often given to “justify” the baptism of infants is that every human being inherits the sin of Adam and therefore is born a sinner.
  - 1. If this is true, if an infant dies without being baptized, they die a sinner and thus will spend eternity in Hell.
    - A. Council of Carthage, 418 A.D., issued a decree on “original sin”; this was done in pronouncing a curse on those teachers who denied "original sin."
    - B. Later church councils repeated and strengthened their support of the doctrine of "original sin."
    - C. The denominations that directly split from the Roman Catholic Church, nearly all continued the doctrine of "original sin." This, in turn, produced the practice of infant baptism.
  - 2. The doctrine of ‘original sin’ is a commandment and doctrine of man!

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2

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#### I. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH ABOUT INFANT BAPTISM?

- A. Those being baptized are to be believers.
  - 1. **Mark 16:16** - “**HE WHO BELIEVES** and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
  - 2. When the Ethiopian eunuch wanted to know if he could be baptized, he was told if he believed he could. **Acts 8:36-37** - “Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” 37 Then Philip said, “**IF YOU BELIEVE WITH ALL YOUR HEART, YOU MAY.**” And he answered and said, “**I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD.**”
- B. Those being baptized are to be penitent - repent of their sins.
  - 1. **Acts 2:38** - “Then Peter said to them, “**REPENT**, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- C. Infants do not fit the Bible pattern for baptism.
  - 1. They have not sinned nor have they inherited sin from Adam or anyone.
    - a. **Ezekiel 18:4,20** - “4 Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; **The soul who sins shall die**” 20 “**The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.**”
  - 2. Baptism is “for the remission of sins”. **Acts 2:38** - “Then Peter said to them, “**REPENT**, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ **FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
    - a. How can an infant “REPENT”?
      - 1) They are incapable of repenting!
    - b. “REMISSION” means forgiveness.
      - 1) What sin or sins is an infant guilty of committing?
    - c. **Romans 7:9** - “I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.”
      - 1) Paul was “alive” in that he had no knowledge of the law.
        - a) Likewise, an infant is without law in that he does not have knowledge of right and wrong.. They are innocent!

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3

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- 2) Children are not able to consider the evidence and thus develop faith. **Romans 10:17** - “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”
- a) Faith comes as a result of ‘knowing assuredly’ like Peter told those in **Acts 2:36** - “*Therefore let all the house of Israel **know assuredly** that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.*”

## II. THE HARM OF INFANT BAPTISM:

- A. It leaves the impression that a change of heart is not necessary.
- B. It leaves the impression that obeying the Lord is just a matter of ritual and not of personal faith.
- C. It ignores the Bible teaching that baptism represents the burial and resurrection of Jesus and the believer's change of heart. (**Romans 6:17** “*But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.*”)

### Questions:

1. Who is a candidate for baptism?

**Answer:**

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2. How can we show that babes are not candidates for baptism?

**Answer:**

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3. How would you answer a person who argues that the “household baptism” support infant baptism? (Acts 10 - Cornelius and his house; 16:15 - Lydia, 34 - Jailer; 1 Corinthians 1:16 - household of Stephanas)

**Answer:**

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